

Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

Date: December 21, 2012

To: Council Vice President Robert Lilligren and Chair Elizabeth Glidden

Referral to: Committee of the Whole

Subject: 2013 legislative Agenda

Recommendation: Amend the 2013 legislative agenda as follows:

In the City Livability: Minneapolis Supports add the following bullet:

 Adoption of legislation that allows all students graduating from Minnesota High Schools to pay in-state tuition, to apply for State Student Financial Aid and to receive scholarships created with private funds from the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State College and Universities system.

In the Municipal Governance: Minneapolis Supports add the following bullet:

• Legislation that modifies the Minnesota driver's license procedures to allow information regarding the applicant to be gathered from an identification card issued by a government other than the United States.

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Prepared by: IGR Staff
Approved by:
Presenters in Committee: Gene Ranieri, IGR Director

Supporting Information

The proposed legislative agenda amendments have been developed and approved by the Latino Engagement Task Force.

The amendment to the City Livability section would allow undocumented students to apply for state financial aid. Currently three states – California, Texas and New Mexico have such a program. The Texas and New Mexico programs began in 2005 and the California program will be fully implemented this year. All three states require applicants to have attended at least three years of high school in the state, graduate from a high school in the state, and sign an affidavit certifying that he or will apply for legal status as soon as they are able to do so. A GED or equivalent certificate is also permitted.

Since the California program is just being implemented there are no progress reports. However in Texas, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board estimated that in Fiscal

Year 2010, 2,495 undocumented students received \$9.53 million in state assistance. The students based on Board research paid \$32.7 million in tuition and fees. The 2,495 students represent less than 1% of all students receiving state assistance. In addition, to the three states ten others provide in-state tuition for undocumented students meting criteria similar to those operative in Texas and California. Additional information is provided in the attachments.

The Municipal Governance amendment would add to the list sources for applicant information for a driver's license, an identification card with a picture of the person issued by another government. Legislation (HF 1718) permitting the use of information from an identification card issued by another government was introduced in 2009 by Rep. Karen Clark. The bill passed a policy committee but was not heard in the Finance Committee. Washington State has enacted similar legislation and the Illinois legislature passed a bill permitting undocumented person to apply for a driver's license on January 8, 2013.